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Executive Registry

*60-5604**Acheson*
Weller

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Outside Publication by Agency Employees

1. This memorandum is for your information only. You may recall that several months ago you questioned whether Agency regulations were unduly restricting employees who wanted to maintain or increase their professional stature by publishing scientific or academic papers. I have asked my staff to look into this matter.

2. Regulation [redacted] requires STAT that all material prepared for publication by an Agency employee, regardless of subject, be cleared by the Director of Security. Additionally, this regulation requires clearance by the appropriate deputy director if the subject is related to intelligence. [redacted] designed STAT principally to centralize press and radio contacts in the office of Colonel Stanley J. Grogan, has the effect of requiring Colonel Grogan's approval as well.

3. In the calendar year 1959 the Employee Activity Branch of the Office of Security reviewed 151 non-fiction manuscripts totalling 6,757 pages. Of these, 141 were approved, seven were disapproved, and three were withdrawn by their authors after discussion. Also in 1959 the branch approved 55 book reviews, stories and poems. The approval rate for all written material submitted was a fraction over 95 per cent.

4. Colonel Grogan's list of approved material is not directly tied to the Office of Security statistics, but gives a fair picture of the type of

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writing being submitted for clearance. In the four months from December 1959 through March 1960 Colonel Grogan approved 17 book reviews, four abstracts, and six theses or dissertations presented to universities. The following sampling will show the range of other writing being done:

a. From DD/P employees:

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b. From DD/I employees:

Five short stories, four by the same author.

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c. From DD/S employees:

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5. Short of canvassing all the authors, there is no way of telling how much of the approved material is actually published. Presumably the book reviews, abstracts and dissertations have an assured though limited readership, but the fiction and the general articles usually are produced in the hope that some editor will accept them. We can only wish well, for example, to the DD/P employee who in 1959 wrote an article entitled

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6. Neither is there any way of measuring the inhibiting influence of clearance procedures. However, an informal check in ORR and OSI did not uncover any dissatisfaction with the clearance system. [redacted]

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STAT [redacted] chief of economic research in ORR, praised the cooperation of Colonel Grogan and the Office of Security and said he did not think Agency regulations discouraged an employee who seriously wanted to write for publication.

STAT [redacted] cited unclassified scholarly publications issued by the Agency itself and said only one of the authors had chosen to append his name; in other cases the work had been a collaboration or the author had hesitated to record his Agency affiliation even for the selected recipients of this series. On the other hand, [redacted] said there was no real obstacle to publishing academic or scholarly material in media not associated with this Agency.

STAT 7. In 1952 Robert Amory, Jr., then Assistant Director for Research and Reports, issued [redacted] referring to scholarly publication and adding that: "The Director has assured me that Agency policy, far from frowning on continued private efforts, actually encourages such production whenever there is no danger to security or risk of inferences as to Government policy." Although this notice has since lapsed, there appears to be no current misunderstanding of Agency policy.

8. OSI division chiefs were checked informally and reported no problems in clearance, though one mentioned that scientists working at desks rather than in laboratories were unlikely to produce much new literature. An OSI representative said clearance by the Office of Security could be arranged in two days if necessary, and did not unduly delay any manuscript. He

added that approval by Colonel Grogan sometimes took longer but did not require any unreasonable wait. None of the OSI personnel who were checked considered clearance procedures any impediment to publication.

9. In one case within the past year a decision was referred to the Director, who approved the Office of Security's recommendation that permission to revise a book be denied. This involved an employee whose outside writing was in the general field of his Agency employment, and the decision apparently has been accepted in good grace by the employee.

10. It is possible, of course, that some easily discouraged Agency employees have thought of writing for publication and have hesitated at the prospect of submitting their material for clearance through channels. So far as can be determined, however, Agency clearance procedures present no real barrier to employees genuinely serious about publishing either scholarly or general writing.

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Oyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

cc: DDCI